

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-04 MMO-01 TRSE-00 NSC-05
SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01 L-01 ICA-01
/043 W

-----041712 140341Z /73-62

R 131505Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6994

S E C R E T USBERLIN 1378

LIMDIS

E O 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: EALR, ECRP, PGOV, WB, GW
SUBJ: SEMI-ANNUAL BERLIN STOCKPILE MEETING, JUNE 9, 1978

REFS: (A) 77 USBERLIN 1353, (B) CERP 0111

SUMMARY: REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL BERLIN STOCKPILE COMMITTEE MEETING WAS HELD IN BERLIN JUNE 9 WITH FRENCH IN CHAIR. FRG APPEARS TO BE MOVING SLOWLY AHEAD WITH NEW STOCKPILE CONCEPT WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED FORMALLY TO FRG CABINET ON JUNE 22, 1978. END SUMMARY.

1. THE REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BERLIN STOCK-PILE COMMITTEE WAS HELD AT PAVILLON DE COMMANDEMENT DE QUARTIER NAPOLEON, HEADQUARTERS OF FRENCH SECTOR, WEST BERLIN, JUNE 9, 1978. MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY FRENCH ECONOMIC ADVISER. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING, HELD IN BONN NOVEMBER 18, 1977 WERE APPROVED. (NOTE: CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMITTEE ROTATES FROM FRG, WHICH IS IN CHAIR EVERY OTHER MEETING, IN TURN TO EACH OF THE THREE

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ALLIES IN WSB. WHEN FRG IS CHAIRING, MEETINGS ARE HELD AUTOMATICALLY IN BONN.)

2. REPRESENTATIVE OF BERLIN SENAT ON PLENARY STOCKPILE COMMITTEE, HERR ERBE, PRESENTED SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT DATED APRIL 15, 1978 ON STATUS OF STOCKPILE TO FULL COMMITTEE. REPORT WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT CHANGE. SOME SLIGHT QUANTITY

MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED BY GERMAN SIDE IN ITS REPORT WERE ALSO ACCEPTED BY THREE ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES.

3. CHIEF FRG REPRESENTATIVE ON STOCKPILE COMMITTEE, DR. HEINZEL, OF FEDERAL ECONOMICS MINISTRY, REPORTED THAT NEW STOCKPILE CONCEPT, WHEREBY STOCKPILE IS UNDERGOING REDUCTION FROM ONE YEAR'S TO SIX MONTH'S SUPPLY (EXCEPT FOR COAL) AT SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THE GERMANS FOR FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS, WILL BE PRESENTED FORMALLY TO FRG CABINET ON JUNE 22, 1978. THE GERMAN SIDE ANTICIPATES THAT CABINET WILL ADOPT NEW CONCEPT WITHOUT CHANGE.

4. CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE ON STOCKPILE COMMITTEE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF REPEATED CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF ITEMS MAINTAINED IN BERLIN STOCKPILE AND REITERATED NEED FOR UTMOST CARE IN MAINTAINING SECRECY OF NEW STOCKPILE CONCEPT. FRENCH ELEMENT BELIEVES THAT PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF REDUCTION OF BERLIN STOCKPILE UNDER NEW CONCEPT PROGRAM COULD CREATE ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS CONCERNING FRG AND ALLIED INTENTIONS IN BERLIN AND HAVE NEGATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON WEST BERLIN POPULATION. BRITISH AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES ORALLY WITH SUBSTANCE OF THESE REMARKS. NO OTHER DISCUSSION OF NOTE ENSUED. THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WAS SET FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1978 AT THE FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY IN BONN.

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5. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED IN BONN GROUP IN JULY 1977 IS STILL ON HAND TO COVER CONTINGENCY OF ANY PUBLIC MENTION OF NEW STOCKPILE CONCEPT; IN OUR VIEW THIS GUIDANCE IS STILL VALID IN EVENT IT IS NEEDED. WE DO NOT RPT NOT HOWEVER, ANTICIPATE ANY DISCUSSION OF NEW STOCKPILE CONCEPT HERE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. FACT THAT NEW STOCKPILE CONCEPT HAS NOT YET BEEN PRESENTED FORMALLY TO FRG CABINET BEARS OUT USBER'S PREDICTION OF MORE THAN A YEAR AGO THAT FRG SIDE WAS MOVING ONLY VERY SLOWLY AHEAD TO IMPLEMENT ITS NEW STOCKPILE CONCEPT. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STOCKPILES, MEETINGS, SEMIANNUAL REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL01378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0884
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780663/aaaacckf.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 89b3bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 USBERLIN 1353
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2366395
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEMI-ANNUAL BERLIN STOCKPILE MEETING, JUNE 9, 1978
TAGS: EALR, ECRP, PGOV, WB, GE
To: BONN LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/89b3bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014